

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A targeting molecule linked to at least one imaging agent, wherein said targeting molecule comprises a polypeptide that: (a) forms a closed covalent loop; and (b) contains at least three peptide domains having beta-sheet character, each of the domains being separated by domains lacking beta-sheet character; wherein said targeting molecule is linked to at least one imaging agent by a substrate for an intracellular or extracellular enzyme ~~associated with~~ in or on an epithelial cell or surface an epithelial barrier, and wherein the targeting molecule does not contain at least one domain selected from the group consisting of the C_H1 α , C_H2 α , C_H3 α , and C_L domains.
3. (Original) A targeting molecule according to claim 2, wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of proteases, glycosidases, phospholipases, esterases, hydrolases and nucleases.
4. (Currently Amended) A targeting molecule linked to at least one imaging agent, wherein said targeting molecule comprises a polypeptide that: (a) forms a closed covalent loop; and (b) contains at least three peptide domains having beta-sheet character, each of the domains being separated by domains lacking beta-sheet character; wherein said targeting molecule is linked to at least one imaging agent through a side chain of amino acids in an antibody combining site, and wherein the targeting molecule does not contain at least one domain selected from the group consisting of the C_H1 α , C_H2 α , C_H3 α , and C_L domains.
5. (Currently Amended) A targeting molecule linked to at least one imaging agent, wherein said targeting molecule comprises a polypeptide that: (a) forms a closed covalent loop; and (b) contains at least three peptide domains having beta-sheet character, each of the domains being separated by domains lacking beta-sheet character; wherein the targeting molecule does not contain at least one domain selected from the group consisting of the C_H1 α , C_H2 α , C_H3 α ,

and C_L domains; wherein the imaging agent is not naturally associated linked with the targeting molecule, and wherein the imaging agent is not iodine.

6. (Original) A targeting molecule according to claim 5, wherein said imaging agent is selected from the group consisting of metals, radioactive isotopes, radioopaque agents, radiolucent agents, contrast agents, dyes and enzymes.

7. (New) The targeting molecule of claim 2, wherein said targeting molecule comprises at least Domain 2 of a J chain.

8. (New) A targeting molecule linked to at least one imaging agent, wherein said targeting molecule comprises a polypeptide that: (a) forms a closed covalent loop; and (b) contains at least three peptide domains having beta-sheet character, each of the domains being separated by domains lacking beta-sheet character, wherein the targeting molecule does not contain at least one domain selected from the group consisting of the C_H1 α , C_H2 α , C_H3 α , domains, and a light chain containing contiguous variable and C_L domains.

9. (New) The targeting molecule of claim 8, wherein said targeting molecule comprises at least Domain 2 of a J chain.

10. (New) The targeting molecule of claim 4, wherein said targeting molecule comprises at least Domain 2 of a J chain.

11. (New) The targeting molecule of claim 5, wherein said targeting molecule comprises at least Domain 2 of a J chain.

12. (New) A targeting molecule capable of specifically binding to a basolateral epithelial surface and causing the internalization of an imaging agent linked thereto, wherein said targeting molecule consists of Domain 2 of a J chain.